

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee Votes Yes On Funds

Washington, DC - The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee recently approved Congressman Maurice Hinchey's (D-NY) request of \$500,000 for a second phase of much-needed flood prevention work in the City of Binghamton. The congressman used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to ensure the funds were included in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2011. Hinchey secured \$462,000 in last year's bill for the first phase of the project.

"After securing significant federal funding last year for improvements in Binghamton and Union to help save lives and reduce costly damage from floods, the inclusion of an additional \$500,000 in this year's budget for a second phase of the project is more good news," said Hinchey. "With small federal investments in flood prevention, local taxpayers save a significant amount more in the future. This project will go a long way towards reducing the risk from flooding that has caused damage and presented a tremendous problem for Binghamton in recent years."

The City of Binghamton will use the funding to continue correcting the unsatisfactory conditions of the South Side Flood Channel, which were identified as a problem by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Most of the damage to the channel was caused by the flash flood of 2006. The channel's concrete continues to deteriorate, with sections washing down to the Susquehanna River during major storm events. Without additional repairs, the channel will become inadequate to carry future flood waters, resulting in the potential threat to life and property.

Now that the subcommittee has approved the funding, it must also be approved by the full committee before it can be brought to the House floor for a vote. Once the bill is passed in the House, it must then be approved by the Senate before it can be considered by the president.